(b) The main rural development programmes are the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) and these are essentially poverty alleviation programmes to bring the weaker sections of society above poverty line by creation of assets leading to a steady flow of income or employment. These programmes which were under implementation in the Sixth Plan would continue at an accelerated pace in the Seventh Plan also, so that in the Seventh Plan, more people would be able to cross the poverty line and more mandays of employment would be generated.

Decline in population of tribe-Swaria Paharia

949. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the tribe of the Santhal Pargana region in Bihar known as Swaria Paharia is facing extinction;

(b) whether Government have made any study to know the reasons for decline in their population; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (c) the population of Sawria Paharia in Bihar was 55606 in 1961 and 59547 in 1971 Census showing an increase of about 6.18 per cent during the decade. The Census Commissioner of India has intimated that 1981 Census tribe-wise population is under tabulation. In its absence no conclusion about the decline in population of the tribe can be drawn. The Swaria Paharia has been recognised as a primitive tribe for according special treatment in development. For undertaking such programmes Special Central Assistance is also made available to the State Government.

Freedom fighters' pension

950. SHRI M. S. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the freedom fighters' pension has been enhanced to rupees 500 per month; and

(b) if so, from what date the increased rate will take effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) It has been decided to raise the amount of monthly pension received by freedom fighters under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme from Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 p.m. with effect from 1st June, 1985. Formal instructions in this regard are expected to be issued soon.

People crossing poverty line as a result of Government sponsored programme

951. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Samples Organisation has recently completed a sample survey on people who have crossed the poverty line as a result of Government sponsored programmes and submitted its report to Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the National Sample Survey Organisation has been conducting quinquennially, Household Consumer Expenditure Surveys in 1977-79 and 1983. The reports on these Surveys give consumption for different items by Expenditure class and also the number of Households with their composition by Expenditure class. The results contained in